

Little Free Press

#81

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FREE

FOREST CLEARCUTTING

It is important that some underground papers are informing people about the damage clearcutting is doing to our ecology.

People have been trying to force loggers to stop this practice. This often gets press coverage, but clearcutting still goes on.

Perhaps we should think for a couple of minutes and discover the "prime cause" of clearcutting.

It's like trying to stop a tub from running over. You can't stop it with bumper stickers or by holding it back with your hands.

Find the "prime cause" of the problem and deal with that. Then all you need to do is shut off the faucet.

Take clearcutting. Loggers are motivated by wages. Logging corporation are motivated by profit. Government does not take the profit or wages out of clearcutting. No, it only attempts to "contain the problem," i.e., it pretends to keep it from getting worse. For some strange reason it isn't successful.

What would happen if we took the profit and wages out of clearcutting and removed the profit and wages from all of the other bad things we are doing to our environment and to people?

If there was not a profit in advertising, people would stop advertising. Advertising is used to "create a demand" for a product or service. We might all be better off if they would stop pro-

ducing products and services that we don't want.

Think of how thin newspapers and magazines would be without advertising in them. Think of all of the trees we would save without advertising. Without profit-wages we could again build sturdy houses from mostly stones, bricks or glass to last for hundreds of years. This alone would save millions of trees each year. Think of all of the paper and cardboard disposable containers that are in your garbage -- they were produced for profit. Think of all the trees that would be saved, if we took the profit out of disposable containers! There wouldn't be a need for waste burners, nor for landfills if there wasn't a profit in advertising, in disposable containers, in planned obsolescence and in planned deterioration.

4 Legged Garbage Collectors

If cities had no law against the possession of chickens, pigs and goats, there wouldn't be a need for garbage trucks. It has also been known for some time that manure makes excellent fertilizer and doesn't even need to be processed. Or it could be put into household methane generators to make fuel and the residue could be used for fertilizer.

The only containers that should be disposed of are the ones that Government uses to "contain the problems."

How can profit/wages be taken out of the logging industry? What would then motivate anyone to cut down

the trees necessary to fill the remaining demand? Nationalizing industry never solves the problem. Isn't profit/wages the same culprit that causes other industries to pollute instead of reclaim and recycle its waste?

Isn't profit the culprit that induces certain people to start wars? And isn't wages the culprit that nullifies people into letting it happen?

Take a drive across the U.S. and see the millions of acres of food growable land that is not being used to grow food.

Isn't profit-wages the culprit that causes cash crops, soil banks and land speculation, which keeps people from using the land to grow their own food, thus causing much starvation on our lush planet? And doesn't that in turn cause people to steal? 94% of the people in prisons and jails in 1980, were in for stealing¹.

So if we can visualize and set up an economic system which does not require a profit or wages to motivate people to work, we would shut off the faucet on the clearcutting of forests and on most other major problems.

Buckminster Fuller² has showed us that "About 90 per cent of all U.S.A. employment is engaged in tasks producing no life-sup-

¹ Statistical Abstract of the U.S., 1985; American Prisons & Jails, 1980, Vol. 3.

² Critical Path, Buckminster Fuller.

port wealth." So when we take the profit out of advertising we will stop doing most of those jobs. That will give us a lot more people to help with the necessary work. In 1981 there were 80 million volunteers³ in the U.S.A., i.e., people who were willing to work without wages or profit.

So we have more than enough people who are willing to work without wages already.

Logging Can Be Fun

The people who enjoyed logging could then make their work into a real fun profession. Perhaps logging would evolve into something like -- enough logging families would settle in the center of each forest or nearby, to take care of the logging. Between them and the forest rangers (who would no longer be under Government's or industry's direction), they might inventory their forest and put this information into their computer data base.

With computers, videos and channel TV; forest caretakers might share their learning with other forest caretakers the world over, with no wasteful bureaucratic intervention. The experts in the forests would be making the forest decisions -- not the politicians or the profiteers.

The loggers and rangers would probably develop many specialists in their settlements. Like; people who enjoyed roaming the forests and observing and recording where all the trees were, their size, etc. Others might observe the health of the trees. Some who liked work-

ing with numbers might like recording this information into computers. The people who liked to do the actual felling of the trees and the hauling to the mill might prefer to live there too. The saw mills might be part of their community.

When a lumber yard's inventory got down to a certain point they could put their order into the Forest Computer Network, listing the kinds and sizes of lumber they needed. Then the forest caretakers nearest who could supply the necessary logs could respond. These ideas might be how the new logging industry will evolve, but then again I suspect, real lumberjacks will have much more logical ideas on how they will like to work and live.

We would nearly have an Utopia or Paradise on this old Earth, if we would all agree to work as volunteers and give all products and services free of charge.

With everything "free," there would be no need for money, credit, barter or government. No reason to steal or starve. All education would be free for everyone. We might all get too smart to allow anyone to con us into wage slavery again.

Gift Society

This idea of a volunteer or gift society has been invented by at least six other people (who contacted me) since 1971. The Eskimos, the South Sea Islanders, the American Indians and probably many others lived a very similar society for thousands of years. Then along came some barbarians who captured them and either killed them or made slaves of them and stole

their land.

With our instantaneous communication systems, we now have the capability to transform the whole world into this near Utopian system. Then we would have the people, ideas and resources to fine tune this volunteer system, to keep it evolving always into something better.

Volunteers have control over the how, when, where, why, what and who of their work. Paid workers must obey. Slaves had to obey. Volunteers can say, "Fuck Off!"

Another Ordeal

I am not getting any younger. Nor spryer. Nor more alert. I have noticed these things.

If I wish to live on a sail boat and travel extensively for a few years or for ever, I had better start NOW!!! That is the only time I can start!

Is the timing right for it now? It has not been right up until now. Perhaps the time is right now. I have the urge now. And I'm not discouraged or burned out with my work. I feel very good and optimistic about the Priceless Economic System at this point.

If I plan to make a break from this past (21 years of) method of publicizing PES, I should "piss or get off the pot." Soon I'll be too entrenched in habit to be able to evolve to better ways of promoting PES.

I have told myself for years, that I should try the total living of the PES, instead of preaching about it.

That good writers would seek me out and write about it much more effectively than I am capable of doing.

³ Christian Science Monitor, March 30, 1982.

I was capable of discovering it and developing it and evolving with it. I just need to let, the dead bury the dead, and get on with the living of Freedom and Happiness. I had got the freedom down pat, but then enslaved myself in trying to be a teacher of the idea. I've found contentment, but I haven't discovered the happiness part.

Almost 64 Years Old

What is my highest priority now?

1. To save the world for the people who are too dumb, busy or lazy to save it for themselves?

2. I have only one life to live -- should I use it to awaken the others so that they can have a good life -- or should I start having a good life and find some happiness for myself before I kick the bucket?

Even a damn fool should be able to choose between the above two alternatives! But will I?

As I have written before -- if everyone were busy pursuing their own happiness -- everyone would be happy and I wouldn't have to wake up anyone.

They may awaken better by just seeing more of us (including me) taking our freedom and happiness -- than by all my preaching about how others should do it. Yes! Yes! Yes!

I have finally come to the feeling that I don't care if the LFP quits today and my books never get sold. It's OK with me because I think I'm about to start another way to make change. To change myself to the point that I become HAPPY!

Being a martyr is not an attraction. But being a happy person, may be. We

shall see. They say one can not find happiness by seeking it, but that does not seem logical.

My first job then is to make myself happy. My Sea Gypsy Life may do it for me. I'll also keep on the sharp lookout for a female mate.

Survivor's Lifestyle?

If they do have the big war or the big destruction of our environment -- in my new lifestyle I will be learning how to evolve and adapt and survive to the new situation.

I got to get out of the old "servant" mode, of feeling, "I must help," those who won't help themselves. I must acknowledge the "survival of the fittest" as a very old and valid law of nature. If most are too dumb or lazy to learn the survive, that is their cup of tea. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

I must discover the virtue and the art of selfishness. Of taking the best for myself. I don't need to live a martyr's life anymore. I don't need to sacrifice, just to save money, for printing to save the lazy and the people who refuse to even lift a finger to help.

I can write a journal and write its index as I write it to make it easier for me to review. I'll continue to write -- but write for myself. Teach myself. Pick myself up by my own bootstraps.

Bring my best stuff with me. Consider this trailer as only a place to stay when I visit my Cushing friends.

This will also help me learn where my best interest lays. Where my highest priorities are.

Florida

On December 12th I started driving my van to Florida with my boat re-

pairing tools, favorite kitchen ware, bedding and clothes. I arrived in Dunedin, Florida at a marina and looked over the boats and found three sail boats with For Sale signs. The Florida Sailboat Trader weekly magazine had hundreds of used sail boats (complete with photos) with a couple dozen in my price range which looked good. I rummaged intensively through the magazine and made several phone calls and finally decided I didn't wish to sail all the way around Florida at this time to get to the Keys area. Figured I may as well buy a boat in the Miami area because of the abundance of boats for sale.

So I took off, going through Tampa. I recall that city as being full of old retired people 20 years ago. But now the traffic was a bunch of youngsters weaving swiftly in and out.

That was a pain in the neck or the straw that broke the camel's back.

I took a motel that night because the traffic at night going in or out of Miami would also be BAD.

I didn't mind the Atlanta, Ga., freeway traffic as much this time. They have seven lanes leaving the city on both the north and south exits. But I still wondered what would happen if some little thing "went out" on my van or some car ahead of me on the Atlanta freeway. It was impressed on me even more when a few little things did go wrong on my van, but not in heavy traffic. My problems all happened as I got off a freeway and safely parked. I'm starting to wonder if there is such a thing as luck. I

had thought that we made our own luck.

Problems

During this trip I stayed in motels three or four times. This trip cost me quite a bit. About \$150 for van parts and I supplied the labor. Going down, a bolt broke which held the power steering pump and another had fallen out. A fan belt had worn thin. After replacing them I had some problems getting the belt to stay tight. Coming home, the battery went out when I pulled off the freeway into a gas station in Rockford, IL. I took a cab the three miles to a K Mart and got a battery just before they closed. One lead battery cable fitting disintegrated when I took it off. I ended up putting a C-clamp on to hold the wire to the battery post. That stayed on all the way home.

As I pulled off the freeway in Minneapolis into a parking spot my alternator went out. The two tiny bolts, about the thickness of a match stick, that hold it together broke.

I couldn't get C-clamps on it so I tied it together with some twine and drove two miles to an auto parts store and got a rebuilt and installed it in their parking lot.

There was about 6 inches of snow and it was around 0°. That wasn't a lot of fun getting down under the van, but I guess it was satisfying to discover I could cope with the problems and fix them myself.

I used a credit card for the first time in 21 years. That was fun not to have to carry so much money, but it won't be so much fun when

the bill comes in January.

A ways east of Tampa in a cheap (\$20) motel, I decided to go home.

Home Again!

When I got back up here to Cushing -- I was sure glad to be home, even though it soon snowed another 6" and got down to a -38°.

My new gas wall heater is a little darling. It is only a 20,000 BTU size, but it heats up my little 20' trailer in a hurry. It takes in its oxygen from the outside and its chimney goes out the wall. The walls on this travel trailer are only 2" thick with a one inch fiberglass insulation with one reflector side. One inch air space and aluminum siding. The inside is 1/4" plywood. If I plan to live in this trailer next winter, I think I'll take the siding off next summer and add another 2"x2" strip on the frame and put in adequate insulation, and make better storm windows.

This trailer had the bathroom removed to increase the size of the bedroom (which I use for my computer room and office). So my toilet is an old farm style pot (bucket). I found a wooden toilet seat that I set on top. I have a stash of leaves that I put in the bottom to keep the poop from sticking and I do my water in a tin can.

So I dump my pot on the manure pile, after I use it and store the pot in my closet. I just throw the water on the field and my sink slop water goes into a bucket under the sink and that I empty on the field too. I get my drinking water from my landlord's outside faucet every few days in a jug and a 2 1/2 gal. plastic

camping bag with a faucet.

I guess you can't call this very fancy living, but it is peaceful and quiet.

I can't hear the neighbors' TV. I can't hear them fighting. I don't worry about getting mugged. I don't hear the constant hum of traffic nor frequent sirens shaking the air.

The air is fresh. The sky is clear and the stars are plentiful. I can do as I please. The rent is cheap (free). I have only heat and light to pay for.

A Big Score

My landlord asked me to haul a load of used carpeting he was getting for free from a friend in Minneapolis who was putting in all new carpeting. So we drove in to this fancy condo's basement and loaded the carpeting. The condo was doing some remodeling and there was lots of 4'x8' sheets of 1/8" plastic, rolls of clear bubble plastic packing, boards, a dozen 2'x2' mirrors.

We asked the manager if we could have that stuff.

They were happy we took it -- it saved them a hauling bill.

The plastic sheets I leaned up against my trailer at about a 45° angle on the east and south sides. I capped it off on the ends and sealed the corner. I removed some of the plywood skirt on that side of the trailer. I covered that plastic sheeting with those rolls of bubble wrapping for insulation. I scooped the leaves and grass off the ground under that lean-to so that a black surface is exposed to absorb the warm sun rays when it is out. The

bubble insulation helps to hold in the heat that is absorbed and it circulates under my trailer and keeps my floors a little warmer.

I left a little door way covered with an old shirt that the landlord's dog uses. He has a wooden box with my old wool top coat under my trailer. He seems to like his solar heated home. He goes to visit his master occasionally and comes out to bark at any cars that pull in the driveway. The funny dog. He howled almost like a tom cat when his neighborhood girl friend was in the heat. He would also go over there but was always chased away. Her master didn't want puppies, I guess.

Odyssey

What did I learn from my 3,300 mile one week odyssey?

1. Cars are costly to own and drive.
2. Cars could cause fatal accidents by malfunction, parts breaking or driver fatigue.

3. Driving long trips is very hard and tiresome work.

4. When I get discouraged, tired, bored or ahead of my LFP work, I talk myself into quitting it. Then I go boat hunting. Find some boats and quit. Then I go home -- to work again.

5. Just getting away from my work for a while and focusing my thoughts intently elsewhere, seems to be what I need, occasionally.

Summation:

I think I just need to remember to take a vacation when ever I'm feeling restless or discouraging feelings. A very important thing I learned on this trip was

when I seen myself nude in a full length mirror in a motel. I was astounded, dumbfounded and ashamed of how I have let my body gain 20 pounds more than I need. I looked horrible. It was a wonderful discovery before my computer-tummy and flab get beyond the point of no return. So now I am beginning to cut down on my computer-time snacks and pushing away from the table a little sooner and beginning some exercises. The trip was worth it all, just to make this discovery.

My Next

Vacations Do's:

1. Don't take a car or van. (too costly, too much work and too dangerous)
2. Travel light; by plane, train, bus or walk.
3. Rent a room.
4. Go to an interesting place.
5. Write but don't waste my life reading (vicarious living).
6. Use a credit card.

Letter

The following is an answer to a four page typed letter from Frank Lee Sedd, Minneapolis, Mn.

Dear Frank,

Thank you for your letter. It is the kind I like to get, although it makes me really rack this old brain of mine to attempt to answer your doubts in a logical manner. Or who knows, perhaps some ones letter may show me that I am wrong in my evaluation of the situation and of people, and may guide me to a more logical path.

You said, "Actually I firmly believe humankind is inevitably working toward some kind of Utopia."

Well, Frank, I am one of humankind and am pointing out a path to Utopia.

You said, "Major obstacles like war and environmental deterioration will not end the striving." Some people think that wars are started

to divert people's attention from their striving toward their freedom. It gets them too busy and worried to think about it.

"Siberians"

You can read more about the Soviet Union's withholding of gold from the market by reading Farley Mowatt's book, "The Siberians." Mowatt's books are much more than informative -- they are very entertaining. He makes me laugh and cry. (Also read his "The Dog Who Wouldn't Be" and "The People of the Deer.") "The Siberians" may help you see how the world leaders are actually just one big family working together to keep the sheep in line.

Now about how we would handle gold and other presently scarce materials. I rather think you are right on this point that we "will build upon the distribution networks already in place." My guess is that in a logical Utopian system we would rather have the people who produce the products, and are the experts in that area, decide on who to give them to.

Not the government, the stock market, commodities exchange gambling hall or any others who don't know anything about the product, as is done today.

I can't foresee what we will do, but that seems like the most logical way to handle the distribution of a person's work. The person who does the work should be in control of the product, I think, or he/she can quit and give their work elsewhere.

Just as I now have control of who I give my newsletter to, because it is free. If there was more demand for my newsletter, I would probably write more often, because I enjoy writing them, when I think they are appreciated. When there is little demand for my newsletter, I slow down my production. I am happy to allow the market (the demand) determine my production, but I'll be damned if I will let anyone determine who I give my product to. I

don't give them to one of my ex-brother-in-laws anymore, who said it was only good for wiping his ass on. And if I discover any of my subscribers who are not reading them, I refund their postage and take them off my list. I think that individual freedom means this kind of power over ones work. At least it does to me. Otherwise you don't have freedom -- you have just another ant colony.

Gold Ballast

My guess is that if you wanted gold to use for ballast in your sail boat and the gold miners thought that it would be a waste of their energy, they would tell you to go and find and mine your own gold.

They wouldn't care if you used gold, but not their efforts for foolishness.

Perhaps the users of precious metals will work closely with the producers of the metals. They will be on the same team (we will all be on the same team), so there will be no conflict of interest. If a new user of the metal comes along and shows the producers that his new product will be beneficial to everyone, I don't see why they would not let him have metal also. These miners would certainly have people who could evaluate the merits of all products and assign a priority rating to them. Because there would be no Profit from any product, I can foresee no reason why they would wish to hog more than they needed. Can you?

You ask about licenses. When cars and airplanes first came out, there were no licenses. And things went OK. When I was in real estate, at first, there were no RE licenses in Minneapolis. The real estate Union, (Board of Realtors) thought they could get rid of some of the part time competition, like housewives and retired men, so they got the city to put in a license law. They told people it would make the profession more honest. But the real reason was to cut down the competition. I know. I was there.

License Necessary?

I don't know if we will insist on people having a piece of paper called a license to drive or fly. It may be that the mechanics at the air port will not let their planes out to anyone unless they trust them to be able flyers. Perhaps the master pilots will give a certificate to a trainee who has mastered the skill. In any event I don't see any need for any laws except the Golden Rule, i.e., "Do to others as you would have them do to you." This simplifies things to the point that we can live better without lawyers and politicians.

You may be right that we may desire to continue some of our vicarious living.

But I rather think we will discover it more fun, to do it ourselves.

That would certainly be up to each individual.

You asked about what would happen to the domed stadium if sports petered out in the Priceless Economic System. Because there would be no monetary profit for anyone, either in using it or in salvaging the materials in it, I suppose the people who were interested in it would talk it over and try to decide what would be best for each individual over the long run, and take the most logical course. Most people who didn't use it, could care less what happened to it.

You spoke about the zoning laws. I think that here again we can refer to the Golden Rule. If you planned to build something that would irritate your neighbors, you would reconsider, because you probably like your neighbors and want them to continue to like you. Intelligent people tend to live near people of their own intelligence level, if they can. Most people don't go around trying to lose their friends. Most people will find in a free system that it is more advantageous to have friends than enemies. Quite a few people already realize this. In our present day to day relationships, most of us practice the Golden Rule all the time,

or as much as we can.

Anarco-Capitalist

Regardless of what some people say, I think that Ayn Rand was an anarco-capitalist, who believed in charging all the traffic would bear without government interference. Although I did enjoy reading her books.

Yes, I agree. The Socialist countries are not better off than the capitalist ones. The workers have it bad in both. The leaders do pretty well in both.

I use "Random House Dictionary's" first definition of profit when I speak of it: "Financial gain resulting from the use of capital in a transaction after all expenses are paid." You are right, we will use the word profit in a different sense in the PES.

You are right again that people are becoming more aware of all of the bad things that Profit is causing.

It has even caused some farmers to begin organic farming and 99% of them charge all that the traffic will bear. First they created a demand and then they filled it. They make a much bigger profit on it because the traffic bears it. I grew up on an organic farm, it was cheaper to produce food organically. We had less expenses until we started using artificial fertilizers, hybrid seed and poison sprays.

I see no signs of hope when people preach about how bad the environment, government and wars are, when they don't mention the "prime cause" of them or a logical solution. No, they just instill fear and attempt to "contain" the problem, not eliminate the cause.

You said that it is a long hard climb to the summit of the mountain we are attempting to climb to Utopia. We may not make it. But some of us have started to practice the PES in our own lives in the here and now. It is like,

"the end is the means."

Total Control
Leaders have been trying

to gain total control of all the world. Then they say we will have peace, when they control it all. And any means to that end is OK. Like killing the people in the Mid-East and the Far-East to save them. No, I think if our end expectation is valid, we must start using it here and now, on our climb.

How do we do that? If the essence of what we desire, is to be able to work for free and receive what we need for free (and thereby be our own boss), we may wish to start at least part of that scenario right now. Many of us are. We are giving some of our surplus things, products or services away free of charge as we see fit, here and now. It is the old priming the pump trick. Or putting something into the mill before you expect to get something out. So every so often, we are even now experiencing some of the getting, free of charge. So those of us who are already playing the new Game, are finding our climb to the top of Mt. Utopia, much easier, more fun and it no longer seems impossible.

We have stopped giving our energy to the mass media and stopped worrying about, nor are hardly even aware of, the fear mongering being fed to the masses. We now use that energy to make our own lives more secure and try to pass on our ideas to whoever is awake enough to understand.

In the PES, when there is no longer a Profit in sickness and as people become more adjusted to abundance and happiness, I would expect them to become much healthier. This would determine the demand for hospitals. The hospitals could be dismantled at about the same rate the demand declined. So that the flow of goods and services would always be in abundance.

You said that dispensing with money will not eliminate greed. That is correct.

But there is no need for greed when there is abundance.

Then to take too much, becomes a burden not an asset.

Work: Privilege or Duty?

In the PES I don't see a need for you to work at all, Frank. There are already enough Volunteers to do the necessary work, working just one day per week. You might have to be a really good guy, to even get them to allow you help at all. People will be having fun at work or they won't do it. They will invent machines or automatics to do the undesirable and dangerous jobs. The fun and creative jobs will be a privilege instead of a duty, I think. I see no need for peer ostracizing. Consumers will be just as valuable as producers.

What fun would it be to produce if no one desired your product?

I know! I know!

As to decision making bodies. Would they be elected? Let's see, what is an example of a decision making body? How about the kind of car that a factory is going to produce? The designers and engineers and whoever, might have a meeting and perhaps come to an agreement about the car they will build. The meeting would be open to anyone who had ideas on the matter.

The logical motivation in the PES would be as you said, to make the best for the most with the least. This would be to each persons advantage. To have the best. To only produce the best and search together to discover what car would be the best. No one getting more out of the process than the next as the product will be free and no wages or monetary profit paid. There would be no conflict of interest as there is today.

Today the workers, management, stockholders and customers all have different interests in the Profit/Wage System, so there is conflict. Was there a need for a decision making body here in this example or did the people concerned make the decision? It is hard to get out of the "Old Think," about how things will be done. I am only trying to figure out what will be the logical way

we will behave in the PES.
Elites Rule?

In the PES, will we still be ruled by the Elites? The present day Elite are superior in ability to rule using the Profit/Wage System or they wouldn't be on top. Whether they will be intelligent enough to rule in the PES remains to be seen. But no doubt, people will rise to the top who have the abilities to be the coordinators in each production area. I would think they will only be respected and listened to if they have answers that work. That is, the workers will ask advice from the people who have the best advice to give. I wouldn't think that anyone would seek leadership in the PES, because it is a burden. But would give their advice freely -- because it is fun to give advice, when there is no need to enforce it. People could take it or leave it.

I don't see a need for arbiters when there is no conflict of interest, because everyone will be better off if truth or the best possible solution is found.

Frank, I hope this gives you a clearer picture of what I think the Priceless Economic System would be like. Answering your questions has given me more insight into the PES. Your questions were very logical and I do appreciate them. Thank you.

P.S. Frank, if we are ever to achieve the PES Utopia, the world will need more good careful thinkers like yourself to critique it and promote it.

Ernest Mann

BOOK REVIEW by Lynn Olson

(Reprinted from "Discussion Bulletin" #44, Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501)

"I Was Robot"

Mann summarizes his thoughts on page 291: "... if we would quit using money, barter and property ownership . . . work at our jobs for free . . . make all

products and services free for everyone . . . control our own jobs and keep people informed of all the ways that anyone could make slaves out of us, government would then be unnecessary. Wars and pollution would stop when there was no profit motive." The book discusses Mann's Priceless Economic System (PES) and details its advantages. In the PES there is no price tag on anything. Everything produced is given away to whoever needs or wants it.

Mann finds that profits cause War and other evils and that we waste our lives as wage slaves ("You work for pay, you must obey.") storing up profits for the few who control the government, the military, the media, the corporations, the schools and the legal system.

Mann exposes the system of private property: "Because the Elite group (with their hired soldiers) convinced the earlier passengers that the Elite owned all the staterooms and seats on Spaceship Earth; they made the passengers work, to make Money, to buy tickets, for space on our spaceship . . .

Own Small Specks

"They allow some of the passengers to own small specks of it.

Thus we think that Ownership is a good idea.

But the Elite claim ownership to the most and the best of it."---page 99.

"The Elite claim they own most of the best land, buildings and factories. But how can they own them---WE built them! And the land was here before they were. They can only own them---IF we work for them as sol-

ders and force this ownership idea of theirs on ourselves.

"The free game will use a different idea about land. It will be an idea of 'Usership.'"---111.

He exposes the voting game: "We are given a few of 'their' stooges to vote for . . . and no matter who wins---we lose . . . the . . . elected ALWAYS serve . . . the Elite . . ."---page 113.

He offers a solution: "If everyone works as a volunteer, there will not be a monetary cost of goods, so all goods and services can be free of charge. When everything is free there will no longer be a profit in the seven major problems."---page 207.

How to:

On how to implement the solution he admits: "I honestly don't know. But perhaps we can each start living FREE as much as we can in our own lives. I give my newsletter away for free."---page 207.

The idea that people will work without being paid has been dismissed by some as impractical.

Argued is that "human nature" will not allow people to give away what they produce.

But the human species lived for at least a million years before anyone ever received payment for his/her efforts. In the few remaining hunter-gathering societies people still give to others what they hunt, gather or produce without expecting payment. It would seem that Mann's PES has been the prevailing economic system for most of the period of human development.

No Label

Mann attaches himself to no movement and adopts no label but his arguments can be found in anarchist, socialist, communist and libertarian ideas of other writers before him. Even the idea of giving away can be found in the New Testament: "Give what you have to the poor . . ." If others have said what he says---what is the value of his book? Man has the gift of writing what is readable.

What he writes can be easily read and easily understood.

He uses none of the long, involved sentences, erudite terms and academic jargon that plagues so much of the more scholarly works. Man will be read by ordinary working people who would never attempt the scholarly books if only because he is easy to read and even fun to read. And he should be read by the professors, the scholars and other serious writers who need to learn what readable writing looks like. Many writers could benefit by his example of how to put important ideas into simple, direct, effective and strong statements.

I WAS ROBOT

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